Mideastern Region Department of Pupil Services President Report

Charlene Koretz

*Activities Attended*:

PBH 540: Stress: Use and Misuse, Arcadia University, 5/2013-7/2013

DPS Annual Conference, *August 7 and 8, 2013*, Ramada Inn & Convention Center, State College

PBH 630: Program Planning & Evaluation, Arcadia University, 8/2013-Present\*

October 4-5, 2013, DPS Board Meeting, Harrisburg

October 23, 2013, MCSNA Fall Meeting, Concussion Management

*Highlights:*

1. Save your Pension.

* The Pension issue still appears to be a big issue in Harrisburg. It is important that our members continue to pressure their legislators to Keep the Promise!
* PA Representative Glenn Grell unveiled his pension reduction plan: Cash Balance Plan

PSEA is not backing this plan, 69% loss in benefits for new teachers. Read more at http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/10/report \_finds\_downside\_to\_pa\_re.html.

* Critical Alerts will be called. Members should make sure they respond to Alerts! Does PSEA have your correct e-mail information, please update this information with your building representatives and log on at www.psea.org.
* Share with other members and friends and family the content of these critical alerts and have them contact legislators.
* Across the state, many Associations are struggling with contract negotiations. Key issues continue to be salary and health care.
* The 2014 Governor’s race is going to be critical to PSEA members. Please

encourage your members to donate to PACE!

* Vote Your Jobs! Do not pay attention to wedge issues.

2. Teacher Evaluations Started this School Year, School Nurses will begin Next School Year. Rubric was distributed for your review. (Judy Morgitan to say more).

3. Legislation Effecting School Nurses & Educators:

* SB 898 introduced by Senator Matt Smith provides access to emergency epinephrine in schools. SB 898 would ensure that epinephrine auto-injectors are available in every school, as well as provide for the training of employees who can respond and utilize an epinephrine auto-injector in an emergency situation.
* SB 871 introduced by Senator Browne has to do with Diabetes Care in the School Setting by Unlicensed Personnel. This Bill currently in Limbo awaiting ADA response.
* On August 12, 2013, the California Supreme Court agreed with the American Diabetes Association position and ruled that state law permits non-medical school staff to administer insulin when approved by the student's parent and treating physician, so long as the school personnel do not hold themselves out as nurses. (The Court did not address the issue of whether federal law would override state law.) A California court decision is NOT binding on PA courts, however ADA are not going away in PA.
* Senate Bill 1085, creates a state authorizing entity -, institutions of higher education - that would **allow new charter schools to be created in your school district regardless of whether parents, students, or local taxpayers support them**. Such a change could have significant adverse impacts on your school district - including decisions that force property tax increases - but you would have no say about the policy. ALERT was sent out to Contact your Legislators.
* HB 1559 provides for 4 hours of suicide prevention education every 5 years for educators in grades 6-12.
* HB 776 relating to pharmacists giving immunizations to children 7 years of age and older, pharmacists currently administer immunizations to adults. Some discussion about how this action would interfere with children seeing their primary care physicians and documentation of the immunizations. Last action September, laid on the table.

4. The Mideastern Region House of Delegates will be held on December 6 and 7, Philadelphia.

* Books, Toys, and More Initiative...To support this initiative…delegates at each December House of Delegates are encouraged to bring two books, two unwrapped toys and two items of warmth (e.g., hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) for school-aged children (5-18). This year’s collected items will be distributed by Olivet Boys and Girls Club to needy families with school-aged children.

5. PSEA Mideast Region Fall Leadership Conference 11/8-11/10 in Seaview, NJ.

6. PSEA PACE Board focusing very heavy on increasing our PACE Contributions by increasing the number of members giving which in turn increases our total dollars raised. Much PACE money has been spent in our fight to save our pensions and that fight will continue this fall. And, we must still be adding to the resources to vote Corbett out in 2014!

Goals include:

* For those locals with payroll deduction, increase the % of members giving to 60% or greater
* For those locals without payroll deduction, increase one-time contributions through one or more PACE drives.
* Increase the number of locals with payroll deduction for PACE.

7. The 5th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Men­tal Disorders* (DSM-5) came out in March 2013.

Autism Spectrum Disorder. One of the most important changes in the fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Men­tal Disorders* (DSM-5) is to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The revised diagnosis represents a new, more accurate, and medically and scientifically useful way of diagnosing individuals with autism-related disorders (see attached).

For more information go to www.DSM5.org.

8. The Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative is offered the 2013

Pennsylvania High School PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention in the spring.. Each school in the state could submit an entry in the following categories; a 60 Second Video, a 30 Second Video, a 15 or 30 Second Audio, or a Poster. This contest is the first of its kind in PA, 42 entries were received. All of the winners and honorable mentions will have their video, audio or poster made available to every school district in the state. Also, the winners are invited to be honored at the State Suicide Prevention Conference in State College on October 16-17, 2013.

For more information and to order the posters see http://www.paspi.org/2013\_PSA\_Contest.php or http://paspi.org/uploads/PSAposterorderform.pdf.

See also aevidum (I've got your back). Aevidium is a culture of advocacy and empowerment at your school, an environment where students and staff feel connected and valued.

Remember the Warning Signs of Suicide by an Easy-to-Remember Mnemonic:

***IS PATH WARM?***

**I** Ideation

**S** Substance Abuse

**P** Purposelessness

**A** Anxiety

**T** Trapped

**H** Hopelessness

**W** Withdrawal

**A** Anger

**R** Recklessness

**M** Mood Change (see attached)

For more information visit http://aevidum.org/.

9. FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 November 2010

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/divisions/npd/CPG\_101\_V2.pdf

GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS (2013). Go tohttp://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1922-25045-3850/rems\_k\_12\_guide.pdf.

10. Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, 2013.

11. American Education Week is November 18-22, 2013. This week presents all Americans with the opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference by ensuring every child receives a quality education.

12. SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 6 AND 7, DPS CONFERENCE, STATE COLLEGE.